

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Electron
Chapman
12-17-02

In re application of:

Date: December 13, 2002

STEPHEN F. GASS

Serial No. : 09/676,190

Examiner Boyer D. Ashley

Filed : September 29, 2000

Group Art Unit 3724

For : SAFETY SYSTEMS FOR POWER EQUIPMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Attention: Boyer D. Ashley
Group Art Unit 3724
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND/OR ELECTION REQUIREMENT

The Office Action mailed December 3, 2002 stated that claims 21-34 were subject to a restriction and/or election requirement. The Examiner identified four groups, Groups A-D, and included in each group various embodiments shown in the figures. However, not all of the figures were included in the four groups: Specifically, figures 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 17-19, 21, 22, 26, and 27 were not included in any group. The examiner then required applicant to elect a single embodiment from each group.

Applicant objects to the restriction requirement to the extent the requirement does not allow applicant to elect from all of the figures in the application. Specifically, applicant desires to elect figure 1, but that figure is not included in the groups identified by the examiner. Claims 21-34 read on the embodiment shown in figure 1. Applicant requests the Examiner to allow applicant to elect the species shown in Figure 1, and then to examine claims 21-34.

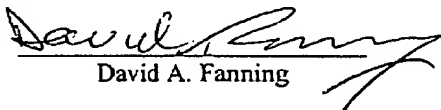
Nevertheless, in an attempt to make sure this response is complete and responsive, applicant alternatively elects the following embodiments from the groups identified by the Examiner: embodiment I from Group A; embodiment II from Group B; embodiment I from Group C; and embodiment V from Group D. Claims 25-27 and 29-34 read on embodiment I from Group A. Claims 21-34 read on embodiment II from Group B to the extent the embodiment shows electronics that can be used in the detection and/or reaction systems set forth in the claims. Claims 21-34 read on embodiment I from Group C to the extent that the pawl shown in that embodiment can be used in the reaction systems set forth in the claims. Claims 21-34 also read on embodiment V from Group D to the extent that the pawl shown in the embodiment can be used in the reaction systems set forth in the claims.

Finally, if it is necessary for applicant to elect one embodiment from the four groups identified by the examiner, then applicant elects embodiment I from Group A. Claims 25-27 and 29-34 read on that embodiment.

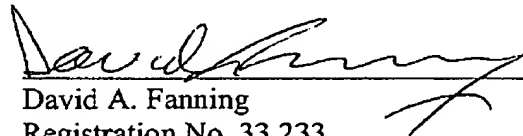
Please telephone the undersigned if there are any questions.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Attention: Examiner Boyer D. Ashley, Group Art Unit 3724, to facsimile number: (703) 872-9302 on December 13, 2002.


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Respectfully submitted,


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